

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 21 and 28-32 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14-19 and 22-27 have been canceled, claims 20 and 21 have been amended and claims 28-32 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14, 15 and 18-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by Humpleman et al. '479 in view of Wang et al. and Hansen et al.; claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. '479 in view of Wang et al., Hanson et al. and Humpleman '419; and claims 22-27 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, claims 20 and 21 have been amended to include the subject matter recited in dependent claims 26 and 27, respectively. Claim 20 has also been amended to address the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted the rejections noted in the Office Action are moot and the pending claims are allowable.

Claims 28-32 have also been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicant submits the new claims are supported by the originally-filed specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau, Reg. No. 42,325, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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